



SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD

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BSE in the US

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December 23, 2003 1st BSE case Reported in the United States of America

- Single cow from a dairy at Mapleton, Washington
- The cow was non-ambulatory when presented for slaughter December 9, 2003
- Samples were routinely taken for BSE as part of the "targeted" surveillance policy for BSE
- High Risk tissues were routinely removed at slaughter
- Carcass offal was sent to rendering
- This is the First and Only BSE case in the United States to date

BSE – Perspectives / Facts

- Not a Contagious Disease – does not spread animal to animal.
- Is acquired by cows consuming contaminated feed products and has an overage of 3 – 8 years incubation.
- Is related to new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease in people (nvCJD).
- In Great Britain, where BSE was discovered and over 300,000 cases of BSE occurred, less than 150 people contracted nvCJD in the past 17 years.
- The United States has had import restrictions of high risk feed and food and live animals since 1989.
- The United States has banned feeding ruminant origin feed to ruminants since 1997.
- The United States has targeted surveillance towards non-ambulatory animals and animals showing any signs consistent with BSE.
- The United States sampled over 20,000 cattle last year.
- The Single Positive Cow was slaughtered December 9 and announced positive to BSE by USDA December 23, 2003.

BSE – Demographic Information

- Canada had single BSE case May 20, 2003.
- Canada depended on exports for 60% + of beef market and on exports for 80% + for cow and bull market.
- The United States is only dependent on exports for 10 – 15% of total beef markets.
- The United Kingdom has resumed beef demand after the BSE disaster of the 1980s without the opportunity and knowledge for prevention and control at that time.
- Canadian beef consumption actually has increased since the May 20 finding. Canada has good prevention, surveillance, and control programs in place.
- Dependence on imports and especially dependence on exports of mature cows and bulls has led to major market disruptions in Canada.
- The United States has even stronger safeguards in place. Each year that passes with the safeguards in place will even further increase consumer confidence and the likelihood of finding BSE cases.
- We are nearing the 5–8 year incubation period for BSE in the United States with the ruminant feeding ban being in place since 1997.
- Best science – including 2 major Harvard University Risk Assessments suggest only a very few isolated cases of BSE are likely to appear in the United States and these pose very minimal risk to the cattle industry or to the food supply.
- While near term market depression will occur primarily as a result of knee jerk reactions by export customers, the Beef industry will remain sound and strong and the food supply will remain safe.
- The United States need to continue to take the lead in implementing systems to provide for trade continuity involving countries with developed preventative detection and control measures, yet still experiencing the isolated case of BSE.